

THE BELL RINGER



Montgomery Bell Academy

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MBA Alums Remember Their Graduation

Reed Trickett '74

What do you remember from your graduation night?

We went over to Thomas Pennington's house over on Woodlawn. It was pretty uneventful – but then again it was a long time ago.

What did your graduating from MBA mean to you at the time?

I was happy to be moving on; however, a bunch of the guys in my class ended up going to Vanderbilt ... It's a little bittersweet when you graduate.

What does graduating from MBA mean to you now?

My closest friends now are MBA guys. I have probably eight to ten really good friends from my class. These friends you meet at MBA – you've gone

to war together for six years, so you get to know each other really well. I just came back from Florida with two M B A friends. We get together and it's like

we're seventeen-year-olds again. I don't know if that's a good thing.

I'm obviously very proud of it. It was a wonderful foundation for me in a lot of ways – not just a good education. You learn about how to conduct yourself in a lot of ways in the real world. There were so many so great people there – Mrs. Lowry, Coach Bennet, Mr. Carter. These guys were my mentors.

You're around a great bunch of men and women.. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be at MBA. I wish you guys could have had someone like Mrs. Lowry – she was there for fifty years.

When you're at MBA, you spend so much time trying to get the work done, and do what's expected of you, but when you get out, you really realize how

great a group of people it has and what a great place it was. The longer you're out, the more you appreciate. I'm proud of the people at MBA and that I had a chance to be there.

William Bryan '50

What do you remember from your graduation night?

I think we had it in the old gymnasium [Wallace Hall]... I don't remember anything embarrassing. I remember the closeness of our class, we were much smaller classes back then. There was a sense we had accomplished something. A lot of us we're going to college together. There was a sense of camaraderie.

What did your graduating from MBA mean to you at the time?

I think I was sad to be letting go. I had a lot of close friends I had

gone to grammar school with. I think there was a sense of sadness of leaving a really great experience and

some wonderful memories we had at the school.

As with all graduates, there was a sense of apprehension...

There was a sense of continuity, we had gone to grammar school, and then MBA and then Vanderbilt. There wasn't near as much diversity in college choices. Much of our class, probably the majority, went to Vanderbilt. There was a sense of here we are, the same group of friends, moving on together.

What does graduating from MBA mean to you now?

I just take a great deal of pride in it. I think the reputation of the

school has grown a lot since then, and we get to take some of the credit for what other people have done. There's pride in going to the visit the school

season. This is a little surprising – I'm sixty-six years old...

I didn't graduate from college so MBA was my alma mater. When I

"When I pass away someday, I'm going to be buried in my MBA tie."

and seeing the campus growth and accomplishments, and appreciation of a great foundation - it got us in shape to finish college and go on from there – a really excellent academic foundation.

Any words of advice/warning for those about to graduate?

Probably I would advise to be in touch with the friends from their years at the school... I think that the greatest thing I got from MBA was not only academics but the personal friendships. I would advise to keep in contact with the school and friends from the school because those kind of contacts can mean a lot over the course of their life.

Duke Kennedy '54

What did your graduating from MBA mean to you at the time?

To be a honest with you, I'm not much of a crier, and I remember getting kind of teary-eyed. It was the end of an era; I had made so many friends, and it was a special place. I remember talking Mrs. Lowry – Mrs. Fitzer to me then. It was tough to think about learning there, really. I might mention that so many of those fellows I graduated with are still my close friends after, gosh, almost fifty years.

What does graduating from MBA mean to you now?

We buried my father last Monday, and in my eulogy I was talking about how I got to be such a big sports fan: he took me to an MBA game football game when I was ten years old. I said this on Monday, I'm still looking forward to the start of next football

pass away some day I'm going to be buried in my MBA tie.



I just made so many lifelong friends there. Even if you don't see them over the years, you don't have any more close, intimate friends. That's

something, if you talk to guys who graduated twenty, thirty, forty years ago, they'd all say the same thing. You don't have this at other schools.

Any words of advice/warning for those about to graduate?

Looking back on my life the most important thing to do with your life is something you really enjoy. I always wanted to do sports casting or sports writing. I feel like as long as you can make a living, and support your family, you're a lucky man.

Compiled by Steven Syverud

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Memories of Matt Hill Megan Whaley: A Tribute

By David Was

It was a Friday night, the evening of September 21, a night that was supposed to be fun-filled with the first ever MBA carnival and a home football game. But on that night things did not go as everyone had planned. For on that night the MBA community lost one of its greatest members in Matt Hill.

I knew Matt for more than thirteen years. Attending Oak Hill School and Montgomery Bell Academy together,

we maintained a constant friendship that was highlighted by an ongoing Vandy-UT rivalry. But the Vandy-UT thing was just a trivial part of my friendship with Matt. Without a doubt, over the years that I knew him and went to school with him, he changed quite a lot. But now, the more that I have thought about him after my friends and I have reflected on his life, the more he really did stay the same. One constant was Matt's smile—people have been describing it as "ear to ear" and "mischievous." Another adjective to describe his smile: contagious. You could not look at him with that smile and keep a straight face yourself. I will always remember seeing Matt trudging around MBA's campus and the enthusiastic way that he would yell out "D Was!" to me. This simple acknowledgment on his part always managed to brighten my day. One of my favorite parts of the school day routine was walking out to the benches in the courtyard after lunch and hanging out with several friends, one of whom was Matt.

I arrived at the service at the chapel a little late on the Saturday night after his death. Sitting in a pew near the rear, I enjoyed listening to some of the great moments of Matt's life—and, remarkably, these were only the beginning. As we gathered together there in the small chapel, I just knew that Matt was there with us. Adam Floyd said it best when he said that the only two things that mattered to Matt were cars and girls. I can attest to this statement. Thankfully, I was able to spend ten minutes with Matt just a couple of hours before the accident occurred. At roughly 4:00 on Friday afternoon after the pep rally, I stood outside my car with Matt and Bobby

Crowe in the senior parking lot. The two things that we discussed were nothing other than my car and girls. The car that I had just started driving a week or so earlier, according to Matt, needed some bigger tires. He gave me his approval of the tinted window feature. Then, the last words he spoke to me were words of advice about which girl to ask to the upcoming Homecoming dance.

An avid fan of the Big Orange, Matt would always be the first to let me know about Vanderbilt's latest loss—whether it was football, basketball, or even women's soccer. He would be even more pleased if the loss were suffered against Tennessee or if the loss occurred against a lesser opponent such as MTSU or Miami of Ohio. Matt had a theory. He claimed to me that the purpose of the foghorn that went off at Vanderbilt stadium after Vanderbilt would score a touchdown (the very few times that they actually did score touchdowns) was to make up for the lack of cheering of the sparse number of fans in attendance at the game.

One final image of Matt: back in our days at Oak Hill School, twice a year, we were required to run a timed mile. Each time that we would run, after about seven or eight minutes, the guys would start to cross the finish line. Most guys would be done after nine minutes, and after ten minutes, the last girl would be finishing up. But then you would look up, and there you would see Matt, going at his own pace. This embodies exactly what I loved about Matt: he didn't care about what other people thought about him. Instead, he just kept on plugging away in life, comfortable and content with himself, to finish his mile run or whatever it was that he was trying to accomplish.

Since that tragic night on September 21, the school, and in particular the senior class, have come a long way. Friendships have been established that will last well beyond high school. Everyone has pitched in to help in some way to keep the memory of Matt alive. As we experience our last days at Montgomery Bell Academy, there remains a huge void that will never be filled; however, Matt's spirit remains with us, never to be forgotten.

By Jimmy Love

Of all my memories of Megan Whaley, I can't recall a single moment when she wasn't smiling. She was without a doubt the most upbeat, happy person I've ever known. Megan was truly one of my best friends. I've never had a relationship with another girl that has approached what we had. It's funny looking back now on the few conversations we'd had about death. She always told me she wasn't afraid of dying. I guess she was one of those special people who could look at death like some great new adventure. I used to laugh when she'd tell me things like that. It never occurred to me that it might actually happen.

The morning I found out Megan had died was the worst of my life. With some tragedies the impact

takes time to sink in, but the pain of losing Megan hit me immediately. I owed so much of my life to her, so many of my good memories, that I couldn't imagine what my life would be like without her. Seeing the tears of my friends during the assembly that St. Cecilia Academy held in honor of Megan made it hard to remember the good times. The rest of that day passed like a bad dream. I know it sounds cheesy but there's no other way to describe it. It seemed like we were all going through some strange ritual of motions that was completely foreign to me. By some grace of God, I guess, I was moving through some kind of cloud that made me block out my pain. I sank into trying to be strong for my friends. I can testify that denial is not a good policy.

There was nothing special about the tree Megan hit other than a big skinned area. I remember getting out of the car with some friends and walking down a grassy bank beside the small back road off Highway 100. Before I knew what I was doing I hit my knees and cried like I haven't since I was very young. I couldn't block out the images of her last moments running through my mind. Try as I might I couldn't see her smile. That smile is my most vivid memory of her, but I couldn't hold onto

it tight enough, and, for the moment, I thought I had lost it forever. I felt hands on my back and head, but nothing could stop the outpouring of emotions. I saw droves of girls with flowers decorate the tree. For some reason that image was incredibly comforting for me. It was the beginning of the most amazing support that we had from people I've known all my life and some that I've never known before. That sight was like a light at the end of a very dark tunnel.

Over the next few days, I felt a torrent of varied emotions. I went through times of incredible sadness, followed by times of great appreciation of Megan's life. On the afternoon of the wake, there were enough people in Church to fill a stadium. My few

previous experiences with death haven't rendered nearly as many supporters. I couldn't help but smile when I realized how many lives Megan had touched in such a short time. I think perhaps seeing her mother, Sarah, was the most trying experience I've been through. Trying to act like I knew everything would

be all right seemed so shallow, but it was the best I could do for her then. I guess now would be a good time to thank everyone for their support of her and her family through our money drive at school. I can't even come close to conveying how much that will help Sarah, not only financially but also in knowing how much we care for her.

The day of the funeral brought a new light for me. I finally came to the realization that even though I'd lost a great friend, in dying she had given me a new purpose in life. If there's any one thing she taught me, it's how to live life to the fullest. There was never a moment when she wasn't living the best she could. Standing around her grave I knew she wasn't really gone. She will be in every sunrise, in every gust of wind, and every happy moment I'll ever know. I'll never forget Megan as long as I live. For every ounce of pain I feel for her loss, I feel a hundred pounds of joy for the times we had together.



Megan Whaley, on the left

MBA Alum Runs for State House

By Adam Zelizer

Thomas "Freddie" O'Connell, MBA Class of '95, is running for the Tennessee House of Representatives in District 56. He is facing the incumbent Republican Beth Halteman-Harwell, chairwoman of Tennessee's State Republican Party and a bulwark of the local political scene. As an Independent candidate with no pre-existing political organization in place, O'Connell is reaching out to the MBA community to help fund and man his campaign.

O'Connell's career at MBA was characterized by successes both inside and outside of the classroom. As a National Merit Semifinalist and his class' salutatorian, O'Connell clearly demonstrated his devotion to his studies during his time at MBA. In striving to fulfill the school motto of "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete," Freddie's achievements beyond the classroom are extensive. In the field of public service, he was a regular at the Soup Kitchen and a reliable tutor at the Boys and Girls Club. He also devoted much time and energy towards recycle MBA and towards *The Bell*. In addition to these extracurriculars, O'Connell contributed to his school by acting as the manager of the basketball team and by creating artwork to be hung in school buildings. By his graduation Thomas O'Connell was an integral part of the MBA community, a fact that he has not forgotten and which he still actively pursues.

O'Connell is certain to involve his high school in his present campaign in multiple ways. He has contacted alumni about helping with the campaign, appointing one, Bill Siesser '95, as his Volunteer Coordinator. His campaign advisor is Alan Coverstone, a current teacher of Government and Economics at MBA (and a veritable genius, not to mention my teacher). The campaign's media coordinator is Beatie O'Connell, a current French teacher who has been at MBA for over a decade (and has been mother to the candidate for over two decades).

Perhaps O'Connell's most interesting action has been to open his campaign to current MBA students. He has set up a student network among many local schools designed to attract politically-minded teenagers to learn about government in action instead of only in history books. The two Student Coordinators of this program, Adam Zelizer '02 and Steven Syverud '02, have

informed the MBA student body of the campaign, and almost a dozen students have signed up to volunteer for O'Connell.

The Committee to Elect Thomas F. O'Connell can be reached by phone at (615) 356-7984 or on the internet at www.VoteOConnell2002.org.

New Role for Service Club

By Josh Sumislawski

As the end of the school year arrives, MBA's Service Club is reorganizing itself in order to serve the community with a more positive impact. Using a plan devised by Mr. Gioia, current president Ryan Mirian hopes "to recreate the Service Club" and "to restore the projects" for the future. The incoming Service Club officers will take over this new mission for next year.

Under the faculty leadership of Mr. Gioia, Dr. Springer, Mr. Threalkill, and Mr. Whitfield, the Service Club hopes to include more underclassmen in the new activities. Because of the tight control of seniors and juniors, certain groups of students often organize most of the projects and participate in them without the involvement of underclassmen. In the new plan, the Service Club allows more feedback from everyone and more overall participation in the wide variety of activities.

According to Mirian, the Service Club wants to receive "strong participation in traditional projects such as Belcourt Nursing Home, Habitat for Humanity, Soup Kitchen, St. Vincent de Paul Tutoring, ReLeaf Nashville, and other annual events like the Southern Book Festival and Christmas Village."

In addition to these projects for which students usually volunteer, new ones are being developed for the Service Club. Most of these activities place an emphasis on athletic leagues, basic health care, construction, and education in art and drama. Over the next few years, it appears as if events for the Preston Taylor Homes and the Lost Boys Project will be regular outings for the club.

Of course, the Service Club functions as a helpful connection between MBA and the community, but under the new plans many people believe it will do a better job of allowing everyone to understand that "small service is true service."

For all those interested in getting easy service hours, contact Jack Bryant about Vanderbilt parking in August.

Farewell, Mr. Regen

By William Sisk

The conclusion of this school year marks the end of an era at Montgomery Bell Academy. Mr. Damon Regen, a teacher here for over twenty years, will be leaving for an opportunity to teach at the new Pope John Paul II High School. But before he departs, we should all take a moment to reflect on Mr. Regen's great accomplishments and contributions to MBA.

Mr. Regen's history with MBA dates back further than 1981, his first year of teaching here. Ten years earlier, he graduated from Montgomery Bell Academy after an impressive career as a student. In his freshmen and sophomore years, he served as class president and was heavily involved in student government. Throughout his time in high school, he played on Coach Tommy Owen's legendary football teams and also contributed to the school as a baseball player. And perhaps most indicative of his

achievements, he was elected as a distinguished member of Totomoi.

Mr. Regen went on to play football at Vanderbilt where he was an Academic All-SEC and Academic All-American linebacker for the Commodores.

He graduated in 1976 with a BE in Civil Engineering. Soon after, he began his teaching career at the newly founded Franklin Road Academy, where he taught all levels of mathematics and coached football, wrestling, and baseball.

Then, in the early 1980's, Mr. Regen came back to MBA. He continued his interest in mathematics by teaching

the subject for his entire tenure at MBA. He also served as the defensive coordinator under his former coach Tommy Owen and was an assistant baseball and track coach as well. In 1992, Mr. Regen took a break from coaching to become Director of the High School under Headmaster Douglas Paschall. However, it wasn't

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Mr. Regen, as a Junior in 1971

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Romeo And Juliet a Success

By Richard Howell

In fair Verona where we lay our scene...

On May 2, 2002, students from MBA, Harpeth Hall, and St. Cecilia staged one of William Shakespeare's finest tragedies: *Romeo and Juliet*. After six weeks of rehearsal, this inseparable cast and crew performed five amazing shows. The true magic of the production came with the elaborately constructed set, the mood-setting lights, and the string quartet that serenaded the play from beginning to end.

Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean...

Romeo and Juliet is an integration of a comedy and a tragedy. In the first half, Mercutio and his Merry Men are in the comic spotlight. The Merry Men, led by Benvolio (Christopher Schuller) and, of course, Mercutio (Ben Pote), provide comic humor with their constant humiliation of Romeo (Brian Christie) and Tybalt (Richard Howell). Their humor brings light to Romeo's melancholy, while it enrages the furious Tybalt. Mercutio's exaggerated frivolity exceeds the boundaries of Tybalt's rage, causing a feud in the streets that turns this fruitful comedy into a dismal

tragedy.

A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life...

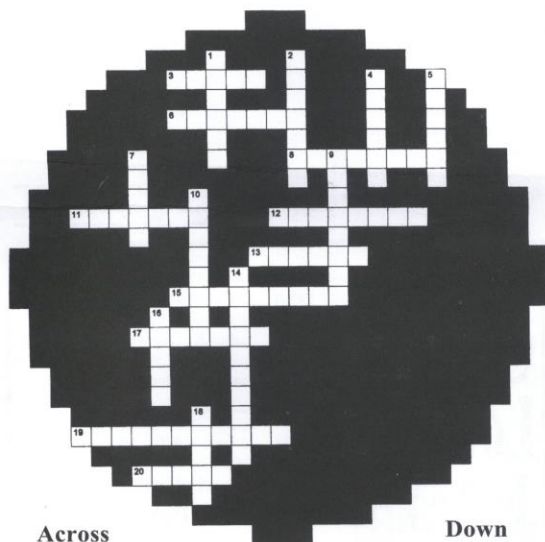
Brian Christie and Sara Luton were a phenomenal team as the adolescent *Romeo and Juliet*. Individually, they were great successes, but they truly shone when they were together, when they were kissing, and when they fell in each other's arms at their grave. Brian also performed one show with Melissa Pinsly as Juliet. Their invigorating chemistry thoroughly pleased the Saturday matinee house.

The which, if you with patient ears attend,

What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

This play was an entertaining masterpiece. With brilliant direction from Dr. Fuller, Mr. Morrison, and Greg Levy, MBA's last play of the year succeeded on many levels. However, as the department moves onto another year, we unfortunately lose an incredible and irreplaceable Senior Class. This class has not only produced countless achievements in the theater, but they also laid the foreground for excellence in the years to come.

Teacher Crossword



Across

Down

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3. Shoot the monkey and Leonid | 1. "MUS"t win, wait, tennis lost |
| 6. Most likely to dress like a wizard | 2. Takes aggression out on plants |
| 8. Hillenmeyer's Gift | 4. ____vin and Hobs (this is where we stopped trying) |
| 11. 90-year-old physics teacher | 5. Most likely to shower on campus |
| 12. Theatrical import | 7. If John Gruden were a high school football coach |
| 13. Discos in class, and runs the defense | 9. WWF |
| 15. Professional study hall proctor | 10. The "normal" soccer coach |
| 17. He's high on 'Her'story | 14. Nicest guy ever....ever |
| 19. "pumps" the lacross team up | 16. Most active yearbook advisor ever |
| 20. We're not going to say anything bad about this guy | 18. Shady shady shady.....right O'Rourke |

The Bell Ringer

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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and can be given to a member of the editorial staff, or sent to bringer@montgomerybell.com. These letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Letters will be edited for length if necessary.

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Baseball Revitalizes Winning Tradition

By Drake Jarman

Having not made it out of the region tournament in the past five years, the Big Red baseball team set out to make a name for itself this season. Under the new leadership of Coach Wims, Coach Golenor ("GoGo") and a solid group of seniors, the Big Red reversed their losing trend and captured third place in the State Tournament.

While the majority of the student body was in the Caymans or Destin, the baseball team began its season by traveling to the luxurious Cocoa Beach Expo in Florida. After beating teams such as FRA (8-7) and Friendship Seminary, NY (37-1), the Big Red escaped the Expo unbeaten, a feat ten previous Big Red teams had not accomplished.

Following Cocoa, the team headed to Chattanooga for the Scenic City Showdown, where it also escaped unbeaten, defeating McCallie (3-2) and trouncing AAA State Champion Murfreesboro Oakland (8-3). The next hurdle for the Big Red was three weeks of three game series against region

opponents. The team remained unscathed, sweeping BGA and beating BA in its first game thanks to offensive breakouts by seniors James Pace and Warner Jones. However, on the shoulders of BA catcher Mikael Jacobs, the Big Red's perfected run came to an end as he belted a two-run homerun in the sixth inning to beat the Big Red (3-1). More misfortune would ensue as the Big Red lost its next five games, three of which to eventual State Champion Father Ryan.

As the team approached the Region Tournament, the tide turned as the Big Red caught a second wind. Having defeated USN and BA, MBA

combined with solid pitching by Drake Jarman, enabled MBA to win (8-3), sending the team to the Region Championship—a place it had not been since 1995. Although Ryan beat the Big Red in two consecutive games, the team remained enthusiastic as it headed to Memphis to face number one seed CBHS, which was attempting to three-peat the state championship. Behind a brilliant pitching performance by sophomore Scott Pettus, (15 K, 4 Hits, 2 ER) and an onslaught of offense by seniors Jack

Turner, Andrew Wilson, and Warner Jones, the Big Red upset the Purple wave, defeating them (8-3) and sending

the Big Red to the Spring Fling in Chattanooga.

The team's first opponent, Baylor, the no. 1 seed from the Eastern Region, had Ace Cane Simmons on the hill. Nevertheless, MBA knocked Simmons out of the game and a homerun by Andrew Wilson sealed the deal as senior pitcher Drake Jarman held the Red Raiders to four hits and two earned runs. Sophomore closer Wylie Jones earned a save by striking out three of the five batters he faced. Next, the team advanced to the second round to meet Father Ryan. Unfortunately, five runs in the first two innings for the Irish and a solid pitching performance by Irish junior Will Myers sent the Big Red to the loser's bracket, where the team would be eliminated by Baylor.

The ending was bittersweet for the five seniors as they defied all odds. For the underclassmen, the baseball team has been restored as a stronghold on campus, and only the future will determine how much success they will enjoy.



Big Red baseball finished third in the state

MBA Track Team: State Runner-Up

By William Sisk

The 2002 track season began on a crisp February afternoon when the Big Red warriors made their pilgrimage to Chattanooga. The season started out well with sixteen hard-fighting seniors returning for their final year. These sixteen individuals carried the team to heights unfathomable as they won every single dual meet in stylish fashion.

After a perfect 7-0 start, the Big Red embarked on bigger meets starting with the Midsouth Classic. This meet, which included teams from Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama, was stolen from MBA in the final race by the Baylor Bears. However, it was a turning point for the Red as it was their first meet in which they did not receive a first place trophy.

The following week the Big Red dominated the Highland games at FRA to continue their journey towards a state championship. William Sisk dominated the killed mile along with Morgan Miller, who won the race. MBA only lost one event—the caber toss. The next week was the Doug Hall Relays hosted by MBA. Here, Morgan Miller dominated in three different races, capturing a first in the 4 x 800, DMR, and the sprint medley. Cook Wyly also had a great meet with three golds in three different relays. If I haven't made it obvious enough, once

again the Red captured a first place trophy, knocking off their city rival, Hunter's Lane. The following week the track team made a long, very long

journey to Cordova in M-town (a journey that we hope to never take again). Enough said.



The promising Big Red track team finished second at the state meet as standout Morgan Miller struggled through injury.

The Shoney City Championship was the next meet where MBA shined as they once again

fashion. Will Denbo also captured first in the shot put and discus. With a two week layoff, the track warriors rested up for the biggest meet yet, the Region Championships.

This meet was dominated from

the start by the Big Red, as Will Denbo won the shot put and discus and Walker Duncan finished a close second in both to qualify for the state meet. Morgan Miller, once again, had an amazing meet as he won the 2-mile on Wednesday, and the mile (4:26) and 800 meters (1:58) on Friday night. Nathan Mulherin, a junior, finished second, only a step behind Morgan, in all three races. Other personal victories at the Region meet included Jeff Snyder in the pole vault, the 4x 100, the 4x 800, 4x 200, 4x 400, and Akeem Turner in the 200 meter dash.

Then, one week later, the Big Red competed for the State Championship. To build up the suspense, we finished 2nd to Baylor, the only team to defeat us all season. Our luck on this hot, sunny day in Chattanooga turned ill when Morgan Miller's left calf cramped up in his first race, the 2-mile, as he finished in 7th place. His will carried him in the mile, but unfortunately, his leg worsened and once again, he finished 7th. After the race, the team found out that this cramp had turned into a severe sprain and that Morgan's track days at MBA might be over, even though he still had the 800 left.

Then, when the 800

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Lamentations of a Vanderbilt Fan

By John Eason

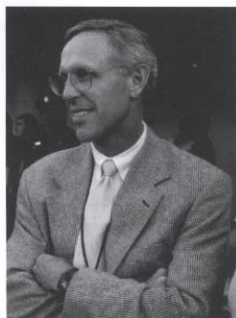
Going into the week of April 29th, Vanderbilt University was going to name Tom Collen its head women's basketball coach. That was until they found out that Tom had accidentally given himself an extra master's degree on his resume. As Tom began his letter resigning after being coach for a day, he wrote, "Given the events of the last few days, I have decided that it is not in the best interests of Vanderbilt University and my family to accept your offer to be Head Women's Basketball Coach." No, Tom, you're right, it definitely is not in the best interests of your family or yourself to come to Vandy. You know why, Tom? Because when you come to Vandy you will lose your first year and get tagged by journalists; then you're gonna lose some more, and the few fans that go to the girls' games will criticize you; and finally some low-life high school newspaper editor is going to get in on the fun. You're lucky you made it out, others haven't.

Hey Eason, who cares about women's basketball, man? Are you just trying to put me to sleep?

Hold on now, just give me a second. It doesn't stop there. Two more coaches have declined the job. They come here to visit Vandy and see the athletic atmosphere and it makes them not overly excited. They see that the football team can't have a winning record no matter how many new facilities they build. The truth is that Todd Turner lacks the understanding to build the athletic program Nashville needs. He thinks that with this great practice facility and new executive offices wins will follow. Todd, it ain't

about the bucks, baby. Having all these new facilities is not going to bring me out to the game when the teams lose. The university lacks a great spirit in its athletics and, frankly, nobody likes the environment right now.

Let's take Mark Prior, who made his much anticipated major league debut with the Chicago Cubs a week ago as he struck out ten batters in six innings and picked up the win. Mark



Todd Turner,
Vanderbilt's Athletic Director

earned numerous All-America selections and won seven national Player of the Year awards after going 15-1 with six complete games, three shutouts, and a 1.69 ERA in twenty games (eighteen starts) during his junior year at USC. Now you want to know where this guy was during his freshman and sophomore years of college? Vandy, of course. But how could such a great talent survive in an atmosphere of losing and poor athletic spirit? He didn't. He got out just like Tom Collen and transferred to USC where he could benefited from a good education AND a good athletic program.

Want another? How about Jeff Rutledge, our new coach at MBA? For four months while Vandy was missing a head coach, he was out recruiting, trying to keep what was left of a program afloat. But as soon as Bobby Johnson came in as head coach, he gave Rutledge the boot. Classy move, Bobby. You're probably gonna miss him next year when you don't have a quarterback and you just fired your quarterbacks coach. Brilliant strategy. We can only hope you, too, will be searching the classifieds in a couple of years.

What about Coach K, David Harrison, Ron Mercer,

and Jamie Winborn - all standouts in their respective sports who eventually thought better of going to or staying at Vandy? Probably would have been helpful to their respective programs. Coach K decided to go to Duke. Mercer went to Kentucky, though his best friend Drew Maddux had committed to the Black and Gold, after Vandy had problems handling his admissions file. Harrison went to play with his brother at Colorado and Winborn got out of Vandy his junior year as an All-American because he hated the athletic environment. There seems to be some sort of trend here. Vandy has lost their baseball coach, women's b-ball coach, and have a football coach that is trying to play God.

I think Vandy needs to address the situation because things are spiraling downward fast. Vandy has become the odd man out in the SEC and its official doormat. If they are forced to play such out of conference games as Richmond, MTSU, Furman, and Connecticut in football, then they might as well just move into the WAC because playing the Citadel at homecoming is a joke and an embarrassment for an SEC team. But what do I know, other than that our football teams are a combined 19-58 over the past seven years.

Track Team a Great Success (from page 5)

approached, Morgan graced the starting line despite his coaches attempts to hold him out. In one of the most valiant attempts I've ever witnessed, Morgan decided to run the race with his entire left leg bandaged up and not even being able to walk on his left foot.

Who knows how, but this warrior led the first 600 meters of the race, and then desperately reached for the sideline with 150 meters left wincing in pain with every step he took. He couldn't finish the race, but got a standing ovation from all that witnessed. His valiant effort was not the way he would've liked to finish his MBA career, but, by God, it was impressive.

Now, to change the mood of the article, we did have some great races too. The Big Red captured first in the most exciting race of the day, the 4 x 100, and set a school record in the process. Grey Skinner, Cook Wylly, Alex Hammerlein, and Akeem Turner made

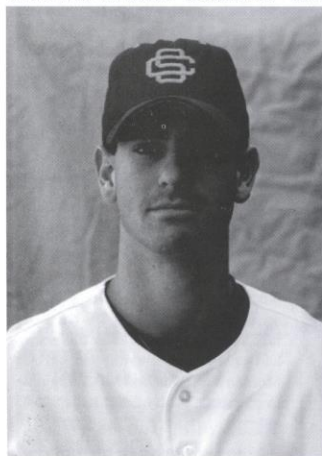
up the 4 x 100 team. We also took the gold in the 4x 800 (Clayton Trammell, Chambliss Shillinglaw, Jeff Snyder, and Nick Reid) and the 4x 400 relay (Cook Wylly, Jeff Snyder, Wilson Robinson,

and Alex Hammerlein). Jeff Snyder also had a great day in the pole vault, capturing a 2nd place finish, and Akeem Turner finished 2nd in the 200 meter dash. Will Denbo won the shot put for a second consecutive year throwing sixty feet, eleven and a half inches, and finished 2nd in the discus.

Even though the team couldn't repeat as State Champions, we had an extremely successful season.

It's been a great four

years running, and I speak for all the seniors (except for Nick Reid) when I say that even though we've all complained way too much during practices and whatnot, we'll all really miss the friendships we've gained, the work ethic we've acquired, and Coach Susan Russ and the Hapeth Hall Track team. Thanks for a hard, but really fun, when I look back, four years.



Mark Prior, a bright star in the Major Leagues, left the black-hole of collegiate sports that is Vanderbilt University.

The Price of Posting the Ten Commandments

By Matthew Leftwich

Recently county legislatures across the state of Tennessee have blatantly violated one of this country's basic principles. Local representatives throughout Tennessee have been voting in favor of posting the Ten Commandments on the walls of courthouses. Posting religious documents in government buildings is a clear violation of separation of church and state. Posting the Ten Commandments in government buildings probably would never be an issue had it not been for September 11. In this time of confusion, our fearless local leaders want to help guide our lives by posting these ten religiously based rules. By placing God back in the lives of the people of Tennessee, they are hoping to improve morality. They also claim that the United States was founded on the basis of the Ten Commandments, and they are, therefore, a part of our past.

Many people are against the posting of the Ten Commandments in courthouses, including a group of

religious leaders in Middle Tennessee. Another group, the American Civil Liberties Union, is taking its complaint to court. The ACLU has sued Hamilton County over the posting of the Ten Commandments in its courthouse. With an ACLU victory, the Hamilton County tax payers will face a few hundred thousand dollars worth of court fees.

It is important to note that organizations such as the ACLU are not against the Ten Commandments. In fact many who oppose the postings find the

fifth through the tenth commandments to be excellent rules to live by. County legislators are quick to point out this fact. The first through fourth commandments, however, are clearly religiously based and provide the

problems.

Although the actions of the county legislators are well meaning, their attempts at having religious documents in courthouses can only be harmful. One of the principles on which the United States of America was founded is being violated. Large

amounts of tax payers' money are being put at risk. The ACLU has a strong case and many legal experts have agreed will

win the cases that the organization brings to trial. Lastly, a fair percentage of the voting public is upset by the postings and the possible consequences.

The benefits of displaying the Ten Commandments are not great, anyway. No one will be moved or gravely affected by the sight of these ten rules. In no way will posting this religious document impact the community. The purpose of the government is, after all, to serve the people. The reason for which legislators are risking large sums of money to hang a piece of paper is unclear. Surely, they do not think that approving a measure to post the documents is going to help the community in anyway. After all, the Ten Commandments belong in places of religious worship, not government buildings.



What would Moses think about this controversy? Why don't you just go to the next NRA meeting and ask him?



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The First Great Schism of Belle Meade

By Michael Pass

So, Ensworth is opening its own high school, and it is stealing the leader of one of MBA's most cherished traditions, the football team. The drama seems almost scripted. For months MBA has anxiously been awaiting the decision of an elementary school board on whether or not they are going to expand themselves into a full college preparatory school. And then, a mere two weeks after Ensworth makes the decision to expand, and MBA is forced to re-evaluate itself and ponder future perils, we learn Coach Bowers, one of MBA's most dominant symbols, will be an Ensworth Founding Father. Bowers' departure stings so painfully because Ensworth is making it blatantly clear they not only plan on presenting an academic challenge to MBA but also have grand designs to rain on our 100-year football parade.

It finally happened, The First Great Schism of Belle Meade. Nashville's Elite have surely bickered before, and now they have decided to divide themselves in two visible camps: The Traditionalists and the Progressives. Of course this is a generalization with too many flaws and exceptions to count, but I think there is some underlying truth in it.

Until the last decade or so, MBA served a very narrow set of interests in this town. If you were wealthy and you had an old family name, your son was most likely going to MBA. The class sizes were small and the diversity was microscopic. Neither racial minorities nor economic majorities could even consider the possibility of attending MBA. Cultural diversity extended no further than having one or two Jewish students graduate each year.

Of course, MBA was not alone in its intolerance. Every public high school in Nashville was strictly segregated along racial lines until the federal government forced integration in the 1970s. After integration, independent schools became even more important to Nashville's white population, serving as bastions for racist tradition. Integration, however, did not persuade MBA to open its doors to a wider economic and social spectrum of whites, so new private schools were built to accommodate those who were less elite but still too imperious to share a classroom with an African-American.

In the last fifteen years, MBA has slowly but surely been changing. Nashville has grown tremendously and its wealthiest citizens have expanded in both size and range of values. A new social morality has found its way into Nashville's high society, brought by newcomers as well as the younger generations of traditional Nashville families. These modernistic ethics

convinced many people that MBA, being one of Nashville's best schools, has the responsibility of offering its services to the entire community instead of just one elite portion. By the end of the 20th century, although the goal clearly has not been fully accomplished, MBA's mission has become to enroll the 600 best students in Nashville, regardless of race, religion, creed, or social background.

MBA has changed, and the results of its change have been profound. The diversity has stretched well beyond accepting African American, Asian, and Hispanic students. The variety of elementary schools represented in every new seventh grade class is impressive, with ever growing portions of public school boys. A well-run financial aid program ensures that boys from all economic backgrounds can attend MBA. Most impressively, as diversity has

coeducational. These families have recently found a sympathetic ear with Ensworth parents who are upset with MBA and its new policies. In all probability, these parents may not mind diversity, but they are extremely intolerant of MBA diversifying at the price of rejecting their sons. Whether it's disapproval of MBA, Harpeth Hall, or both, there has been enough discontent for Ensworth parents and other wealthy Nashvillians to pledge millions of dollars to build a new high school.

A plethora of coeducational private schools already exist as alternatives to MBA and Harpeth Hall, but many members of Nashville's upper crust society are not satisfied. Many wealthy parents want a kind of utopian world that neither MBA nor any other school can currently provide: a coeducational high school that will be

Meade community often look no further than the membership of their country club. To date, there has been one black member, and he happens to reside in a different state.

Maybe Ensworth High School truly does intend to be different from their lower school counterpart. Coach Bowers explains, "The high school is going to be on a different campus with a different leadership [Although he conceded not entirely different]. It's located on the edge of Davidson County and the cost is going to be different." Bowers believes the kind of students the school will attract has a lot to do with the feel of the school, which he thinks will be new and welcoming.

In all probability it does seem likely that Ensworth High School's makeup will be more diverse than its lower school. Practically, it would be extremely difficult to fill its spots or field competitive athletic teams without admitting a percentage of diverse students. Although Bowers points out that Ensworth's location is not in Belle Meade, I am not sure how that will amplify the diversity. For one, that edge of Davidson County is essentially an upper-middle class white neighborhood. Secondly, let's not forget when the old, traditional, purely white and wealthy MBA was founded, it was located farther away than the edge of Nashville. In fact, it was considered to be in the middle of nowhere. "A country school for city boys," was its slogan.

Rich people are used to getting what they want, and it appears Ensworth has a good chance of getting what they want, or at least close to it. They have the money to build a large beautiful school and to attract many good teachers. They hope that their facilities and their qualified faculty will help attract both good students and good athletes away from MBA and Harpeth Hall. They will probably have some cultural diversity, but certainly not the same sort of diversity MBA has pursued. No minority or financial aid student will be taking a spot that could have been given to a child living in the right zip code. Once the priority needs of the Belle Meade aristocracy have been met, then they will dole out the remaining spots for the sake of racial and economic diversity. Rich people also like to win, so I'm sure spots will be reserved for gifted athletes of all social backgrounds.

Obviously, as a supporter of MBA, this article is biased, but that

Many wealthy parents want a kind of utopian world that MBA cannot provide: a coeducational high school that will be good academically, accept their children automatically, and simultaneously be socially acceptable to the Belle Meade crowd

increased, MBA's academic prowess and national reputation have been immensely augmented. The enhancement of academics and athletics, MBA's traditional strengths, has been accompanied by a flourishing of student art, music, debate, and drama. MBA has become one of the finest and most well-balanced schools in the United States, and students are being accepted into the nation's most prestigious universities.

Although wealthy whites still account for a majority of the student body, admission to MBA has become extremely difficult for everyone, and significant numbers of alumni's children and other traditional MBA patrons are rejected each year. To put it plainly, sending your son to Ensworth or Oak Hill no longer ensures he will be admitted to MBA. A student must make good grades and have high test scores. That reality has fueled bitterness and resentment in some circles, and a significant contingent of MBA parents, alumni, and even board members disagree with the direction MBA is headed. The new reality that Ensworth students can no longer count on automatic admission to MBA has played a vital role in creating incentive for Ensworth to expand.

In actuality, a synergy of forces has combined to create enough impetus to build Ensworth High School. For years, certain families have been pushing for MBA to become

good academically, accept their children whether or not they are the best students, and simultaneously be socially acceptable to the Belle Meade crowd.

Proponents of Ensworth High School point out that Nashville has grown and that there is a need for another private high school. This may be true, but what came first, the chicken or the egg? Do Ensworth parents want a new school because there is a demographic need, or did they want a new school anyway, and the fact there would be enough students to fill it simply made their wish possible?

Ensworth's founders claim Ensworth High School's doors will be open to the entire Nashville community. New head football coach and athletic director, Ricky Bowers, says, "Ensworth hopes to create a place welcoming to all of Nashville." The rhetoric is progressive, but serious questions must be asked about whether Ensworth truly is concerned with the greater Nashville community. The students that attend Ensworth's elementary and middle schools may be the most homogenous group of students in the entire city. A massive proportion of student body consists of wealthy white children from traditional southern families. Belle Meade and Ensworth have practically become synonyms. Nashvillians looking at the concerns of the Belle

Continued on Page 9

William (Bill) Frazier Speaks His Mind

By Bill Frazier

I have decided to write an article to be read by both teachers and students for the next 135 years at fair Montgomery Bell. It is no longer mine, but I have come and now I am leaving, and after four years on the hill, I have come to a few realizations that I will share with you now.

There are no bad kids at MBA. I have yet to meet a student here that I would consider to be "on the edge". Students here may get into a little trouble but because of their upbringing they will never exceed the normal actions taken by teenage boys.

MBA students are incredibly easy to teach and control. So long as you are intelligent enough to know the material you are teaching and allow your creative students to be creative and are nice enough to earn their personal respect, then you will be a great teacher and be remembered well and your career

and life will have been a success. Because every MBA student wants to graduate, faculty can maintain order with relative ease.

Look at Mr. Klausner, my English teacher for my first two years at MBA. Because he treats students honestly and fairly, he can ask a lunch-room full of boys to quiet down and receive an applause followed by less noise.

Montgomery Bell Academy is a great school and I would complain, so

not want to be anywhere else. There are amazing teachers, and students

easily learn how to intelligently express themselves. The only complaint I have is that MBA needs to be a little more real and more open with its students. There should be a relationship that gives students some say in what goes on in their day-to-day lives.

Well, I'd rather work to change what is wrong than to all of you

underclassmen, remember that being at MBA means you have the potential to achieve excellence, and it's up to you, not the administration or the board, to realize that excellence. We are not a school full of geniuses, nor jocks, nor thespians. We are 600 plus, above average, highly talented, highly motivated young men, with the ability and the will to work as hard as possible to be great at something.

I would rank the class of 2002 as one of, if not the best class in the history of Montgomery Bell Academy. What I ask of the future classes is to be greater than we were and to make sure that the classes after you are even greater. I would like to thank all my teachers, underclassmen, and most importantly my classmates. I wish you all the best of luck.



Bill Frazier, on the right, with MBA legend George Frazier

Ensworth (Continued)

does not necessarily make it wrong. For the record, I do not believe the interests of Ensworth High School are evil and I do not believe Ensworth parents are bad people. Many of my closest friends went to Ensworth and belong to Belle Meade Country Club. I do think, however, Nashville's high society has many problems and is often selfish. Intolerance and a sense of superiority pervades much of the elite community in this city. I think the leaders of MBA and its board are fighting for a noble cause by making our school open to all races and classes of people. When this goal began interfering with the notion that an Ensworth student was assured a spot at MBA, many privileged members of our community became disgruntled.

These forces, combined with parents calling for MBA to become coeducational, have been able to muster the necessary support to build a new elite high school that can fulfill all of their dreams. I think that in many ways Ensworth High School is the product of a fundamental disagreement between those who want to grow and those who cling to the past. How Ensworth will handle diversity and how they will serve the greater community is impossible to predict. The future is uncertain, and only time will tell how Ensworth High School will affect MBA and the entire city of Nashville.

By the Numbers

17

National Merit Semifinalists, MBA Class of '02

17

National Merit Semifinalists, combined, Father Ryan, Hillsboro, Harpeth Hall, and USN Classes of '02

Janet Schneider, director of USN's college counseling department, told *The City Paper*: "The award is very prestigious. It's an academic honor."

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A Farewell to Mr. Regen (cont. from page 3)

as much the administrative responsibilities Mr. Regen enjoyed as much as the students he got to know. As Director of the High School, he took special pride in taking care of every student, making sure to take time with them whenever he could. At the same time he was head of the High School, he also served as Senior Class sponsor and has been the sponsor of the Totomoi Society.

So now, almost three decades after starting as a student here, he leaves MBA to pursue a new opportunity at a new school. At Pope John Paul II, Mr. Regen will once again be teaching math and will return to coaching football under Head Coach Jeff Brothers. In addition, he will also help to coach baseball there.

For the past thirty years, perhaps no man has given more of himself to Montgomery Bell Academy than Mr. Damon Regen. His spirit has been very much a part of MBA's own spirit since his days here as a student. In fact, his MBA experience could serve as the model on which the "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete" motto is founded. He did, after all, attend the school while Mr. Francis Carter, the founder of MBA's well-known motto, served as Headmaster here. And after twenty

years of teaching, his name can be etched with the other great teachers and coaches that have spent time at MBA. Ball, Lowry, Carter, Bowen, Owen, and

on the shoulder during a study break or a smile shot your way at lunch, he always seemed to be there to let you know he cares. He could often be found talking

He has, in short, shared the MBA experience with us.

Loved by students, faculty, and alumni alike, Mr. Regen has given so much to the school, and for that we could never thank him enough. In 1972, Damon Regen graduated from Montgomery Bell. In 2002, we graduate from Montgomery Bell. And for the second time, Mr. Regen leaves the Hill, this time with our class. He has meant so much in our lives and in the lives of thousands of students over the past twenty years. I can only imagine what Montgomery Bell Academy will be like without him, and as a member of the final class he will see graduate, I'm glad I'll never have to. But to all future graduates who never got to know him the way we did, you'll be missing out — just as the rest of us are missing him.

Good luck in all you do and all the things you hope to accomplish, Mr. Regen, and never be too much of a stranger to Montgomery Bell. This place still needs people to care about it as much as you do. Just know that you leave MBA a better place than when you first walked the Hill — and that the Class of 2002 and all the classes before us will always remember that. We'll miss you more than you'll ever know.



In 1972, Damon Regen graduated from Montgomery Bell. In 2002, we graduate from Montgomery Bell. And for the second time, Mr. Regen leaves the Hill, this time with our class.

now Regen — all wonderful teachers at MBA and all genuine in their love for their students. They've all left their mark here, and Mr. Regen is no exception. His teaching provided wisdom, his coaching built character, and his love and support for all of us are unmatched. Whether it was a pat

with students in the Quadrangle on a sunny afternoon. He attends almost every MBA event; whether it's a football game, a theater production, or a track meet, he's always there supporting his students. Perhaps most importantly, he wears his class ring like all of us — and has every day since 1972.

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